



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK

re application of:
Bryan et al.

Serial No.: 09/776,394

F 1: February 2, 2001

HUMAN SPINAL DISC PROSTHESIS

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Group Art Unit: 3738

Examiner: Stewart, Alvin H.

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Amended
S. Bryce
1/6/03

AMENDMENT FOR RCE

Box RCE
Commissioner For Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed June 27, 2002 and as part of a Request for Continued Examination filed herewith, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

In the claims:

Please amend the following claims:

4. (Amended Thrice) A method of surgery comprising [the steps of removing a vertebral disc from a patient's spine, forming holes at precisely predetermined locations in bone structure adjacent the location of the removed disc, tapping the holes to form a female thread in each hole, and threadably implanting an anchor into each tapped hole, thereby creating reference points located precisely with respect to the patient's spine,];

forming concave, non cylindrical surfaces in the endplates of confronting vertebral bodies [adjacent spinal bone], and

inserting between the formed concave [bone] surfaces an intervertebral [a vertebral] disc endoprosthesis including:

confronting [concave-convex] supports, each support having an exterior convex surface adapted to mate with one of the formed concave surfaces [the adjacent formed concave spinal bone surface, the endoprosthesis further including], and

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